

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 378
By Hargrove

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Mrs. Lillian Frances
Gragg for her dedication and thirty-eight years of
service to the students of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those outstanding teachers who have devoted their careers to providing the highest quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, Lillian Frances Gragg is one such estimable educator, who, during thirty-eight years of outstanding service, distinguished herself as a professional of the greatest dedication, ability, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, we recognize Mrs. Gragg for her dedication to the students of Tennessee, an honor most befitting her outstanding tenure as a teacher as it recognizes the positive influence she has had on so many young lives; and

WHEREAS, the only child of Henry L. and Hallie Stanton Bockman, she was born in the Little Indian Creek Community in Putnam County; she graduated as Valedictorian from Baxter Seminary, and she received her Bachelor's degree from Tennessee Technological University and the University of Akron in Ohio and a Master's degree from the University of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Gragg started teaching English at Algood High School in 1938; three years later, she married Mr. Gaskill Gragg, the school's principal; and

WHEREAS, the Graggs both taught at Algood High School until 1957, when they moved to Harriman; upon returning to Cookeville, Mrs. Gragg accepted a position to teach English at Tennessee Tech, where she taught until she took her much-deserved retirement; and

WHEREAS, Lillian Frances Gragg is an extremely talented and compassionate educator who works assiduously to motivate her students to reach their full potential, both as scholars and as citizens; she possessed the unique ability to command the utmost respect from all of her students; and

WHEREAS, she is remembered by her former students for organizing Algood High School's first library in a small dressing room next to the auditorium stage; she sponsored school plays, directed seniors with graduation speeches, and saw that juniors and seniors had class celebrations in a decorated gym even though there was no dancing; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Gragg introduced her students to preparing school newspapers, debating, and public speaking; and

WHEREAS, she truly serves as an inspiration to her colleagues and students alike, and her friendship and counsel are highly valued by those who are fortunate to know her; and

WHEREAS, her many professional accomplishments aside, Lillian Frances Gragg is most appreciative of the love, support, and companionship she shared with her husband, Gaskill, who passed on to his great reward; and

WHEREAS, she is a faithful member of the Jefferson Avenue Church of Christ, where she has taught Bible classes; and

WHEREAS, always willing to serve her community, Mrs. Gragg has also volunteered at the Cookeville Regional Hospital; she is also active in the Retired Teachers Association; and

WHEREAS, Lillian Frances Gragg truly epitomizes the ideal of the dedicated teacher who is wholly committed to the highest ideals of public service and quality education for all, and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Lillian Frances Gragg for her thirty-eight years of service in Tennessee schools, commend her exceptional service to the children of Tennessee, salute her professional expertise and personal excellence, and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.